

Message Text

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70

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 RSR-01 /132 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, UK

SUBJECT: US NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS RECEIVE ANOTHER SET-
BACK IN U.K.

REF: LONDON'S 9858, AUGUST 28, 1973

1. HALF PAGE ARTICLE IN FINANCIAL TIMES OF AUG. 30
NOTES DECISION BY USAEC TO DERATE POWER OUTPUT OF CER-
TAIN U.S. BWR REACTORS BY 8 TO 20 PERCENT AND CONCLUDES
THAT THIS LESSENS CHANCE OF BRITAIN OPTING FOR BWR.
2. ARTICLE NOTES THAT NEITHER PWR NOR LATEST VERSION
OF BWR (BWR-6) ARE AFFECTED BY RULING BUT GOES ON TO
COMMENT ABOUT ECCS WORRIES WHICH AFFECT ALL U.S. LWRS
AND THEN ASKS WHETHER THE EXPENSE OF MAKING U.S. LWRS
SAFE ENOUGH FOR BRITAIN MIGHT MAKE COST ALMOST AS MUCH
AS A BRITISH REACTOR.
3. UP TO PRESENT, BRITISH INSPECTORATE OF NUCLEAR
INSTALLATIONS HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO GIVE AN OPINION
ABOUT SAFETY OF U.S. REACTORS ON GROUNDS THAT INSPEC-
TORATE HAS RECEIVED NO APPLICATION TO BUILD SUCH REACTOR
IN BRITAIN. NOW, HOWEVER, APPLICATIONS DESCRIBED IN
REFTEL HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED AND INSPECTORATE WILL START
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WORK OF ASCERTAINING ACCEPTABILITY OF LWRS IN BRITAIN.

USAEC DECISION TO DERATE BWRS SEEMS LIKELY TO EXERT
NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON FINAL DECISION. ACTIVITIES OF
RALPH NADER AND FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ARE DESCRIBED
IN ARTICLE AND POINT IS MADE THAT REGARDLESS OF TECH-
NICAL MERITS OF THE MATTER, BRITISH PURCHASE OF LWR
WOULD MEAN IMPORTING POLITICAL PROBLEMS OVER ENVIRON-
MENT ISSUES. IN FAVOR OF LWRS IS FACT THAT CHIEF
INSPECTOR OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS, MR E C WILLIAMS
SEEMS SCRUPULOUSLY FAIR AND OBJECTIVE.

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